

LAMOILLE UNION DISTRICT #18 BOARD MEETING MINUTES
GMTCC COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008

Board members present: B. Bailey, D. Baker, J. Eisenhardt, P. Ingvaldstad, T. O'Hear, D. Osborn, B. Penberthy, K. Roberts, D. Whitcomb. Absent: W. Sander, S. Reber, S. Hamlyn-PreScott. Others: B. Schaffer, C. Hindes, J. Teegarden, M. Frederick, S. Cano, T. Messier, J. Laithe.

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. *Call to Order, Introductions, Adopt the Agenda, Announcement,s and Public Input*

A. Call to Order – 6:31

B. Adopt the Agenda

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.

2. *Report Out on Core Values Special Meeting*

P. Ingvaldstad asked for opinions about the core values special meeting, and whether it seemed worthwhile to go on with discussion on core values. D. Osborn said she found it very valuable. She said any time we have a chance to look at the big picture it is helpful. B. Penberthy agreed that it was helpful. She said a bigger chunk of time for discussion would be better. T. O'Hear agreed. D. Baker agreed that a longer session would be nice. Several said evenings would be better than weekends. Several felt 4 hours was long enough for a session. P. Ingvaldstad asked, did the board decide not to have administrators present at the next session, but to invite them to the one after that? B. Penberthy and others thought that was correct.

3. *Report and Discussion on Summer School*

Tim Messier gave a report on summer school. He noted that there was a clerical error in the information included in the board packet. He has corrected copies for those who want them. Enrollment has expanded each year he has been in charge of summer school. This year we offered math, science, language arts, and a Transitions course for 7th and 8th graders intended to improve their transition to the next grade. This year, the Program Assistant was not only available to assist instructors in their classes, but also coordinated and supervised the Summer School Learning Center (like a study hall for students who arrived early or stayed late), did classroom note-taking, tutoring, classroom pull-out work periods, etc. T. Messier gave figures for enrollment and credits earned. T. Messier said one student was in a bad traffic accident, and is still hospitalized. She was concerned about passing her summer school science class in order to get her diploma. There were only a few classes left at the time of the accident, so there was an emergency meeting with summer school staff, Mark Floyd, and B. Schaffer, where it was decided to grant her her summer school credit.

P. Ingvaldstad asked, does it make sense for other schools to participate in the Transitions class? C. Hindes said they have talked about that. He said that the generosity of T. Messier, J. Teegarden, and B. Schaffer made the Transitions class happen. He said the number of students taking the class this year does not reflect the importance of this

opportunity. He thinks the number will increase in the future. The rise in fuel costs this past summer may have had an impact on enrollment.

P. Ingvoldstad asked, if we ran a central bus route, would enrollment increase? T. Messier said he thinks we would get a handful more. He said the chief difficulty in expanding enrollment is competition with summer activities and employment. K Roberts asked about the possibility of online offerings. T. Messier said Transitions did offer an online component. K. Roberts said she was thinking that might help with the transportation problem. J. Teegarden said a bevy of online opportunities will be included in his budget for next year. B. Schaffer said for courses offered this summer with an online component, a teacher was still needed in the classroom when projects were submitted, for evaluations, etc. to be sure someone else was not doing the work. K. Roberts said classes could allow students to do coursework without leaving home, and show up at school for assessments. P. Ingvoldstad asked if there is the opportunity to use summer classes to prep kids for courses like algebra, instead of just having them repeat courses they didn't do well in. T. Messier said some courses are used for that. We could discuss it with department heads. He sees no reason we couldn't do that. J. Teegarden said tech center students often don't have time to take courses in the regular way. Summer school could help them take more classes while at the tech center. He will talk more about this in the future. T. Messier said it takes a special person to teach summer school. He suggested that anyone who sees one of the instructors give that person a pat on the back.

4. *Consent Agenda Items*

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded by D. Whitcomb. B. Schaffer said some of the student representatives' names need to be corrected in the minutes. The correct names are Alexa Arthers, Susan Bernath, and Jeff Laithe. C. Hindes said the name of the teacher whose resignation was accepted was Janet Newman, not Jennifer Newman. **The motion to approve the consent agenda with the above corrections was passed.**

5. *Directors' Orders*

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to approve directors' orders in the amount of \$1,555,621.67, seconded by K. Roberts. The breakdown was as follows: GMTCC Bldg. Project \$69,096.80 (major expenditure US Bank \$62,729.95 – annual purchase of securities), District #18 \$1,486,524.87 (major expenditures – \$53,556.86 First Student; \$25,309.88 Irving Oil; \$25,037.00 Lamoille Valley Ford; \$1,227,187.32 The Bank of NY Trust – municipal bonds). (*Note: At the meeting, the overall total was incorrectly given as the District #18 total.*) Some bills that couldn't wait until the meeting were paid on Sept. 29. The total paid on Sept. 29 was \$19,460.23 (major expenditure \$16,265.23 Village of Hyde Park – electricity.) D. Osborn thanked the business manager and her department for processing the bills they way they do. She said they have everything organized very well. **The motion was passed.**

6. *Administrative Action Items*

A. **GMTCC**

J. Teegarden presented the FY2009 action plan, which was approved at the last RAB meeting. K. Roberts said it was terrific work. She asked if getting student input into the employability skills curriculum should have happened be-

for the curriculum was developed and reviewed by teachers and advisory groups. J. Teegarden said having students involved in selecting employability skills doesn't really make sense because those skills come from employers – they're the skills employers say they need. Students were involved in action plan development through the climate survey and in the area of expanding and enhancing student organizations. He doesn't think it is appropriate for students to have much input in the other areas, because they are fundamental to the structure of the center. Students shouldn't decide whether or not he should do those fundamental things. P. Ingvaldstad said Policy 6.4 for the high school says students can design their own courses, and B. Schaffer is developing a Principal's Project course where students research an issue of their choice. He asked if researching what employers want could be a course students could design for themselves, and we could give credit for that. J. Teegarden said he is very willing to have people working with him on employability skills, and willing to look at how students can be involved in ways like that. K. Roberts said might it validate it more for kids than if the list of skills came from the top down. J. Teegarden said they don't do very many things top down at the center. Kids have a lot of input because he is trying to engage them. P. Ingvaldstad asked if improvements to the system of embedded credits will happen this year. J. Teegarden said he believes that, for each program, there will be assessments for each embedded credit subject area. At a future meeting he could talk about how kids obtain credits at the tech center. Over the years they have accumulated various creative ways to give kids credit, but actually knowing the subject area is becoming important. At the end of the year he can report on embedded credit assessment and how far they got with that.

MOTION: K. Roberts moved to adopt the GMTCC Action Plan for FY2009, J. Eisenhardt seconded, and the motion was passed.

Each year GMTCC gets an equipment grant from the Dept. of Transportation. This year it will be about \$35K, but it was budgeted at \$10K. The money must be spent on something that costs more than \$5K and has a shelf life of more than 5 years. J. Teegarden asked for authority for Marc Luneau to invite quotes on a used groomer. Then he will ask for approval from the RAB.

MOTION: D. Osborn moved to give J. Teegarden authority to buy a groomer after getting 3 quotes, and the motion was seconded. D. Osborn said the board had talked about the importance of the school maintaining the cross-country trails. Could the groomer be used here, or would it have to be located at Hardwick? J. Teegarden said it would mostly be used at Hardwick, but it could be brought here. P. Ingvaldstad said we already have a snowcat for grooming here. K. Roberts asked what we should do with the extra grant money if there is some. J. Teegarden said he will come back to the board if he sees something else that might be needed. He doesn't want to spend money just to spend it. P. Ingvaldstad suggested perhaps some money could be used

to buy maintenance equipment for the small engines and welding class to use in working on the snowcat. **The motion was passed.**

B. Central Office

D. Taylor thanked S. Cano and other members of the administrative staff for filling in after T. Bailey's departure and keeping everything operating very well. She distributed the central office report. NECAP science assessment results have been released, and graphs of student scores were quickly prepared by J. Woodard and sent out to principals. D. Taylor gave thanks to T. O'Hear, who brought the School Violence Conference to the attention of administration. S. Cano attended it, and found it very useful. D. Taylor and S. Cano have been participating in New Superintendent Orientation. S. Cano and J. Lindgren have been working with Lamoille County Mental Health on improving coordination of services and communication. Susan Bartlett was honored today for her work with children and families by the agency B. Penberthy works for. D. Taylor expressed appreciation for Senator Bartlett's work.

D. Taylor encouraged board members to read through the LNSU board meeting packet. Her draft entry plan is in there. She is interested in communicating directly with school board members, administration, community leaders, etc. She wants to schedule meetings individually with school board members at their convenience. Meetings will take about 30 minutes. She will have similar meetings with other groups, then synthesize the information gathered and bring it to the November LNSU meeting and determine whether we should engage in an LNSU-wide planning process.

Staff will be participating in visits to Wolcott Elementary School to see Response to Intervention in action. Cheryl and members of the finance team attended annual special education finance training. A replacement for Sue Grimes was hired yesterday. M. Frederick has been reviewing collateralized accounts to determine how safe they are.

M. Frederick gave a technology update. We were originally supposed to receive a 1 gigabyte pipe to the LUHS campus July 1, then the date was pushed back to Oct. 1, and now VT Tel, the company who had agreed to provide the pipe, has hit a roadblock. VT Tel had a tentative agreement with Stowe Cable to use a section of their cable, but that fell through because Stowe Cable wanted more money and VT Tel felt they could not accept Stowe Cable's conditions. VT Tel hasn't quit trying other options. Its president is working to come up with a solution.

As a short-term solution that will help some, we got a business class cable modem through Comcast, which is 2.5 times faster than what we had previously. But we need to find a better solution. M. Frederick distributed information about the companies VT Tel has been trying to get involved and encouraged board members who have any contacts with influence in those companies to ask them to help us. B. Schaffer talked about the impact of the current internet

situation. Teachers find that online videos time out when they try to view them. Many teachers now have wiki pages, but listing homework assignments on them is very time consuming because of the slow upload speed. For classes where online research needs to be done, due dates sometimes need to be pushed back. Teachers find they have to use the internet for prep at home, rather than at school. We would like to be able to offer online courses. J. Laithe said B. Schaffer summed it up. The internet at school is very slow, and that makes work atrociously slow. It makes students get off task and makes it hard to get work in on time. With technology advances, it becomes more important to have a faster internet connection. C. Hindes said there is a similar frustration level among his faculty. B. Schaffer and C. Hindes asked the board to help with the situation. M. Frederick said the Public Service Board doesn't feel this is the kind of thing they would deal with. K. Roberts asked, what's the physical location of the roadblock? M. Frederick didn't know. M. Frederick said we need to have a lot of voices be heard. She will draft a letter with talking points. D. Osborn said we still need to operate within our mandate and code of ethics, even when dealing with such an important issue. She suggested reviewing our code of ethics before acting as individuals.

M. Frederick said the next LUSD agenda will need to include action on more borrowing. Short term borrowing for the construction project is over and the bond is due soon, so we will have to borrow more until the state pays us back. Bus bids will also be on the next agenda.

D. Whitcomb said we owe a great debt of gratitude to S. Cano for taking over as interim superintendent when T. Bailey left. She did a great job of keeping us informed. Everyone applauded.

7. ***Committee Reports and Action Items***

A. Curriculum Committee

K. Roberts described 2 proposed new courses the committee will want to bring forward to the board. One is from the math department. It is called Topics in Math. It is a .5 credit course designed to engage kids around topics not often addressed in regular coursework. There is very little cost implication. The only concern is that it not become so popular that it drags kids off regular math coursework. B. Schaffer has also proposed a Principal's Project, a .5 credit independent study in dissertation format. B. Schaffer will work individually with 3-5 students. It will be pass-fail. Each students will research a problem and give presentations to the student body, school board, etc. Neither class has a significant cost implication. We will be hearing from B. Schaffer about how implementation of the most recent course additions went.

P. Ingvaldstad said B. Schaffer is working on bringing department chairs to board meetings.

B. Cricket Hill Building Committee

M. Frederick said the committee has decided to postpone building until spring.

8. ***Request for Future Agenda Items and Adjourn***

C. **Future Agenda Items**

K. Roberts said she wondered what VSBA is hearing about budgeting and the state's position, and what M. Frederick is hearing from villages and towns. M. Frederick said she will have a presentation at the LNSU board meeting. D. Osborn said the LNSU board meeting on Oct. 8 is important, and she invited people to give her a call or email if they can't come and want to have any input.

The annual school boards meeting will be October 30 and 31. There is money in the budget for board members to attend. Those who want to go should call C. McFarlane.

D. Baker said VSBA is asking for nominations for VT School Custodian of the Year. She proposed that Thad Tallman, who has worked here 25+ years, be nominated.

MOTION: D. Baker moved that the board ask for Thad Tallman to be nominated for VT School Custodian of the Year, seconded by D. Whitcomb, and the motion was passed.

D. **Adjourn**

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:15, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna E. Griffiths

Actions taken at the LU District #18 Board Meeting 10/7/08:

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B. **Adopt the Agenda**

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